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4/2/95

Dear Harold,

This is a bad time of the year normally and this year is worse than usual. Too many committees, student advising, plus winding down the semester, which ends at Pitt in late April, together leave me little free time. This will be somewhat brief.

I think that the LBJ telephone transcripts do show that Katzenbach was pushed into action by Eugene Rostow (and, of course, perhaps others), sometime on the 24th. From the conversation it is clear that the call is after Ruby shot Oswald; the call being the one from Rostow to Moyers. The exact time is not provided in daily diaries or logs. It would be useful to know that time since Rostow implies that the idea of a commission was being discussed for some amount of time. What I am wondering is if Rostow waited for the news that Oswald was dead before he called. Obviously, if a commission was being discussed before Oswald was shot, that would be more than just suspicious.

I think the transcripts do show that LBJ initially assumed there would be a Texas inquiry. I am trying to pinpoint the time when this changed. It is pretty clear

that he (LBJ) changed from an opponent of the commission to an advocate of it between November 25 and 28. I am working on that also.

I am also thinking about the other issues you raised in your letter. Do you think that it is of some interest that the normally anti-left Hoover was so quickly ready to overlook an opportunity to link Oswald to some sort of "leftist" conspiracy? Ultimately such an effort would be futile, but he does seem to be very willing to quickly pass up such an opportunity in order to kill off any and all ideas of a conspiracy. Was he just satisfied to have Oswald painted as a leftist, even if acting alone, or was he tuned in by someone that the immediate goal must be to prevent all ideas of conspiracy, even if they might be useful to increase hatred of communism, socialism, Russia, Castro, and/or domestic leftists. I am not going off half-cocked on any of this and anything I do will be based on the available facts.

Thank you very much for your invitation to return. I hope I can do that in May (at your convenience, of course). The one book of yours that I do not have is Whitewash II - FBI Secret Service ... I am enclosing $5, primarily for mailing - can you send me a copy and let me know how much more I would owe on it. I will contact you in a few weeks about the possible visit.

Sincerely,
Don

DONALD GIBSON
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(or office address)

PS: DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT DONALD W. SCOTT?